



## SENATE BILL 75: Restore Ct. of Appeals Membership.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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**Committee:**

**Introduced by:** Sens. Hise, Daniel, Bishop

**Analysis of:** Filed Edition

**Date:** February 18, 2019

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Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 75 would increase the number of judges on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from twelve to fifteen.*

**BACKGROUND:** The North Carolina Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court. The Court of Appeals reviews the proceedings that occurred in the trial courts for errors of law or legal procedure. Judges of the Court of Appeals are elected statewide and serve eight-year terms.

**S. L. 2017-7** reduced the Court of Appeals from 15 to 12 judges by abolishing the first three seats that became vacant on or after January 1, 2017, and before the expiration of the incumbent's term.

**S. L. 2000-67** increased the Court of Appeals from 12 to 15 judges by creating three judgeships filled by appointment by the Governor on or after December 15, 2000. Those judges' successors were elected in the 2004 general election.

**CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:** Currently 15 judges hear cases in panels of three but G. S. 7A-16 provides that three judgeships will be phased out. **Senate Bill 75** would increase the number of judges on the Court of Appeals to fifteen, the number of judges that had been allotted to the court from 2000-2017.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director

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